

larly known as « The Cathedral ») on June 15th. The Oblates from all four parishes of Jersey (three Anglo-Irish, one Northern France) took part the ceremonies.

Most Rev. Thomas Holland, Coadjutor Bishop of Portsmouth, presided and delivered the sermon. Father Henri VERKIN, pastor, chanted the solemn Mass assisted by Fathers W. HUGHES and E. CANNING.

His Excellency dedicated a major portion of his discourse to the history of Eugene DE MAZENOD, retelling his noble heritage, his flight into Italy, his return and the founding of the Oblates. « The secret of his (DE MAZENOD's) life and his work is his compassion and his lack of hate. We need that spirit of compassion today for the poor in spirit, for those without faith, for those without love of God or man ».

ST. PETER'S PROVINCE

Coast-to-Coast Novena.

To mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the death of Bishop DE MAZENOD and to honor his and his Congregation's heavenly patroness, the provincial office of the Association of Mary Immaculate under the direction of former Assistant General Father Joseph R. BIRCH, organized a « coast-to-coast » novena for members and friends. The official intention of the novena was « to obtain the canonization of this Servant of God whose zeal gave to the Church the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and to honour Her whose name they proudly bear ».

The Marian character of the novena was underlined by beginning it on Mothers' Day, May 14. It

closed on May 22, Pentecost Monday, the day following the actual centennial. As its name implied, the special novena prayers were recited by members of the Association across the entire continent, from British Columbia on the Pacific coast to Newfoundland on the Atlantic.

It was in fact a double novena, with Masses being offered at the Holy Rosary Scholasticate in eastern Canada and at the Lourdes Shrine of St. Mary's Mission some forty miles from Vancouver on the banks of the Fraser River. The mission was chosen for the western site of the novena because of its obvious dedication, and because 1961 marks its own centenary. The Lourdes Shrine was built in fulfillment of a vow. Bishop Louis Joseph D'HERBOMEZ had promised to erect it in Our Lady's honor if she would bring him back from Europe to die among his Indian people, in the land that had broken his health but which he loved as only a missionary can love an adopted country. Bishop Paul DURIEU formally blessed the shrine in 1861.

Special novena cards and explanatory leaflets were circulated throughout the Province in preparation for the novena.

From the *Oblate News Letter* of St. Peter's Province, December 1961:

May 21st, 1961, will be the centenary of the death of our Founder. It is the wish of our Superior General that this event be marked in all our houses with fitting celebrations. In each of our parishes there should be at least a triduum, with appropriate sermons, in preparation for May 21st. At a later date literature and more information will be sent to all houses and residences. This

centenary affords us all an excellent opportunity to study the life of our Founder and to publicize the work of the Oblates.

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Oblate Missions, quarterly review published by the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate and edited by Father Fred MILLER, devoted considerable space to the Founder during the centenary. The first issue of 1961 contained a six-page illustrated biography of Bishop DE MAZENOD. The May issue gave its readers a page on « The Beautiful Death of the Founder » and three pages on the « Birth of a Congregation ». The well-known letter written by young Eugene to his mother explaining to her why he felt called to the priesthood was printed in the September issue.

ST. MARY'S PROVINCE

The various centennial celebrations in St. Mary's Province began with the dedication on February 8, 1961, of the large and imposing provincial house at 307 Saskatchewan Crescent W., Saskatoon. In honor of the Founder, and to perpetually record its inauguration during the Centenary Year, the house is known as De Mazenod Hall. Due prominence to the opening of that centennial year was given at the ceremony with the presence of Father Joseph SIMON, provincial, with his entire Provincial Council, all of the Province's district superiors and two of its former provincials.

As throughout the entire Oblate world, all the parishes of St. Mary's conducted a preparatory